

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the careful examination of the application and for the indication of allowable subject matter. In view of the foregoing amendments and the remarks that follow, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections.

The Office Action of March 29, 2007 was not received in the mail. As is clear from the USPTO website, the Office Action was returned to the USPTO on April 2, 2007 (miscellaneous incoming letter), and the USPTO did not resend the document. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the USPTO to reset the period for response to the Office Action so as to accept this submission as timely. In the event that the USPTO refuses to reset the period for response, the USPTO is authorized to charge the requisite fee for an extension of time to Applicant's attorney's deposit account no. 02-4800.

Claims 1 – 3, 10, 22 – 23, 33, 35, and 36 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 09-275598, hereinafter *Toru*.

A main advantage of the invention over the prior art is that when stiffening members (claim 35) or spokes of different construction and greater lateral stiffness (claim 11, claim 37) are provided in addition to the radial spokes, then it becomes possible to dimension the lateral force provided by the suspension independently of the centering force which keeps the voice coil correctly centered in the magnet system. Thus, the radial spokes can be dimensioned so as to provide a very powerful centering force (an infinite stiffness is ideal for centering) whereas the lateral stiffness provided by the stiffening members/additional spokes can be chosen as the designer wishes to achieve a desired characteristic. Thus, the invention

provides a greater control over stiffness in two directions than was possible in the prior art constructions.

The rejection of independent claim 1 is rendered moot by the cancellation thereof.

Claim 35 recites a suspension for the voice coil of a loudspeaker drive unit, wherein the suspension includes, among other elements, a plurality of radial spoke-like members connecting an inner ring to an outer ring. The spoke-like members are arcuate as viewed in a circumferential direction. Claim 35 further includes a plurality of stiffening members, wherein each of the stiffening members interconnects the outer ring and the inner ring and each of the stiffening members extends between the inner and outer rings at an angle of other than 90° with respect to respective tangents of the inner and outer rings at respective points of attachment.

In contrast to claim 35, in *Toru*, the spokes are arranged in pairs, wherein each part of the pair extends between the inner and outer rings at an angle of 90° with respect to respective tangents of the inner and outer rings at respective points of attachment. Accordingly, claim 35 is clearly patentable over *Toru*.

Claims 3, 22 – 23, 34, 36, and 43 depend from claim 35, and are thus patentable over *Toru* at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 35.

Claims 10 and 33 have been cancelled, and claim 2 depends from claim 11, which has been rewritten in independent form so that it is now allowable.

Claims 1 – 2, 12 – 17, 34, 37, and 38 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by USP 6,853,734, hereinafter *Sahyoun*.

The rejection of independent claim 1 is rendered moot by the cancellation thereof.

Claim 37 recites a suspension for the voice coil of a loudspeaker drive unit, wherein the suspension includes, among other elements, a plurality of radial spoke-like members connecting an inner ring to an outer ring. The suspension further including additional spoke-like members of a different construction and greater lateral stiffness to that of the first plurality of spoke-like members, wherein each of the additional spoke-like members has two distinct points of attachment each for the inner ring and the outer ring.

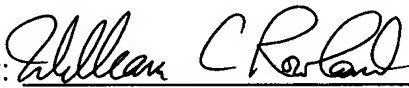
Applicant submits that the amendments to claim 37 clearly distinguish that reference from the claim. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection of claim 37 and the dependent claims, including claims 39 – 42, that depend therefrom.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN, INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

Date: October 1, 2007

By: 
William C. Rowland
Registration No. 30,888

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620